better service from Nationalised Insurance Companies;

(b) if so the details thereof; and

(c) whether any penalties will be levied on Insurance Companies giving poor service to the public?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) to (c) The Malhotra Committee recommendations on reforms in the insurance sector are under consideration.

Preservation of Films at National Archives

276. SHRI K. R. MALKANI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the use of a wrong chemical for preservation of National Film Archives, Pune, had destroyed all but eight of the 3,000 silent movies and all but 5,000 of the 30,000 'talkies' chosen for preservation as reported in the 'Pioneer' dated 11-1-1995;

(b) whether there has been an inquiry into the matter and responsibility fixed; and

(c) whether adequate steps have been taken to ensure that no such mishap occurs again to destroy the art wealth of the nation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) No, Sir. It is not a fact. However, Government have seen a report in this regard in the Delhi edition of "The Pioneer" dated 15-1-95.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Due to decomposition of nitrate base film (which was in use upto early 50's) almost all the (approximate) 1300 silent feature films made in India, had been lost by 1964 when the National Film Archive of India was set up.

The Archive has so far acquired only around 4000 prints of films with sound. They are being preserved in as ideal storage conditions as is currently known to Science. In spite of this, some of the old films are likely to deteriorate over the years. Such films are continuously being identified and copied before they get completely decomposed.

Programmes of Calcutta Doordarshan

277. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Calcutta Doordarshan had found out some multifaceted artists who are experts in music, art, woodcraft etc. and whose programmes on being telecast had received public appreciation during the last two years;

(b) whether such programmes have not been repeated despite public demand; and

(c) if so, the facts and reasons therefor and the names of such artists whose programmes were telecast during the last 4 years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) to (c) Many artists possessing proficiency in more than one art form/discipline have featured on Doordarshan over the years. No statistical record of the various accomplishments of such artists is, however, maintained by Doordarshan. Programmes are retelecast by Doordarshan based on its programme requirement from time to time.